

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys under a clear sky.

Desires Accountable To God

Let's Ponder On...

Desire is...

“A strong, natural, morally neutral force that drives humans to satisfy needs of Life.” *Lexham Bible Dictionary*

Accountability is...

“The quality or state of being accountable; an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions.” *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

'Our' Desires... 'Our' Pleasures?

James 4:1-3 NKJV

¹ Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from **your desires** for pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and **covet** and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on **your pleasures**.

Why Should We Check Our Desires?

1. Can become harmful or unhealthy.
2. Desires can lead to Covetousness.
3. Source of our desires inform us of 'whose' we are.
4. Impatience towards unfulfilled desires (even godly ones) can result in devising worldly methods to obtain desired results.
5. The object(s) of our desires can become idol(s).

“What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.”

1. Daily Bread... At Whose Commands?

Luke 4 1:1-4 NKJV

¹ Then Jesus, **being filled with the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² **being tempted for forty days by the devil**. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, **He was hungry**.³ And **the devil said** to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, “**It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’**”

“The devil offers simple pleasures but always hides the price tag.”

2. Greater Glory... Who is Worshiped?

Luke 4:5-8_{NKJV}

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.** ⁶ And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ **Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.**” ⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! **For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’**”

3. Validation... Whose Stamp?

Luke 4:9-12 NKJV

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, **throw Yourself down from here.** ¹⁰ For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,’ ¹¹ and, ‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, “**It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ”**

Realign The Desires Of Our Heart

1. Be in the Word and Worship

Psalm 37:4 ESV “**Delight** yourself in the Lord, and he will **give you** the desires of your heart.”

2. Be Submissive in Prayer

Luke 22:42 NIV (*Jesus*)....saying, “**Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.**”

3. Seek Godly Counsel

Prov 11: 14 NKJV Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Let God Be God...

Acts 17:24-28 TLB

²⁴ “He made the world and everything in it, and since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples; ²⁵ and human hands can’t minister to his needs—**for he has no needs!** He himself gives life and breath to everything, and satisfies every need there is. ²⁶ He created all the people of the world from one man, Adam, and scattered the nations across the face of the earth. **He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and when. He determined their boundaries.**

²⁷ “**His purpose** in all of this is that **they should seek after God**, and **perhaps feel their way toward him and find him**—though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ **For in him we live and move and are!** As one of your own poets says it, ‘We are the sons of God.’

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